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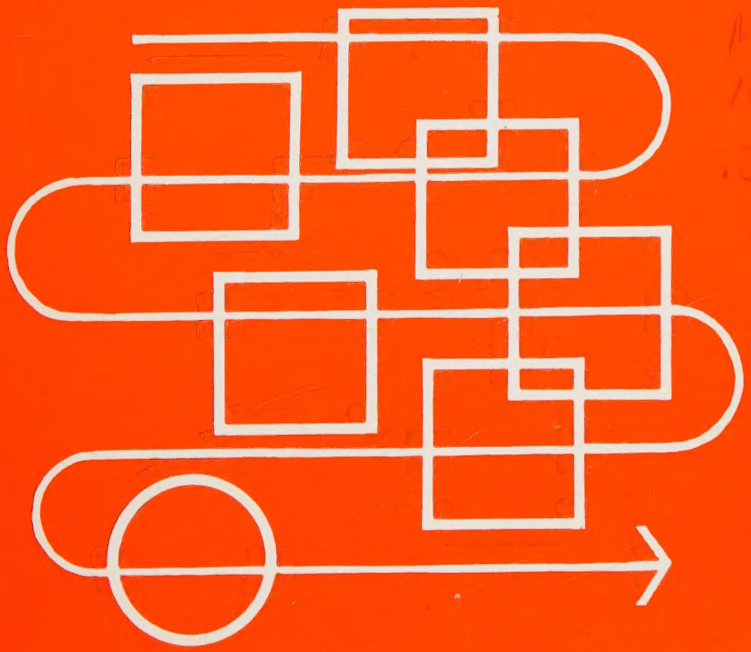
JAW HARP

SELF-INSTRUCTION METHOD



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JAW HARP

THIS INSTRUMENT has a metal frame shaped like a horseshoe. The two ends extend into parallel branches between which is a metal tongue which vibrates easily when set in motion by a stroke of the finger. It is placed in the mouth between the front teeth in such a position as to allow the metal tongue unrestricted movement. This together with the performer's ability to alter the size of his mouth cavity produces various tones. In Europe and Eastern Asia and Oceania it is found made of wood, and occasionally of metal. In Europe the tongue of it is found with an upturned end for plucking. In Oriental countries the earliest type is set in motion by a jerking string. In Eastern specimens two or three tongues are used in the same frame.

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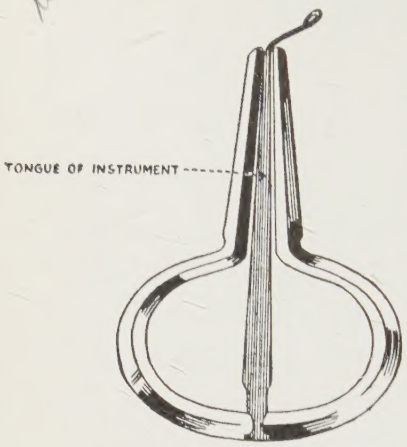
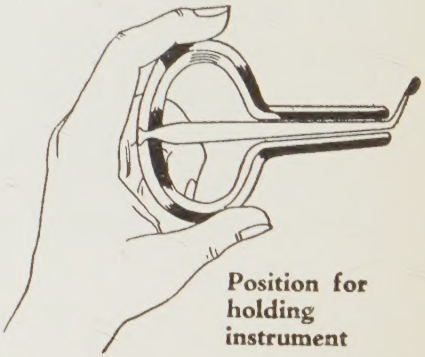


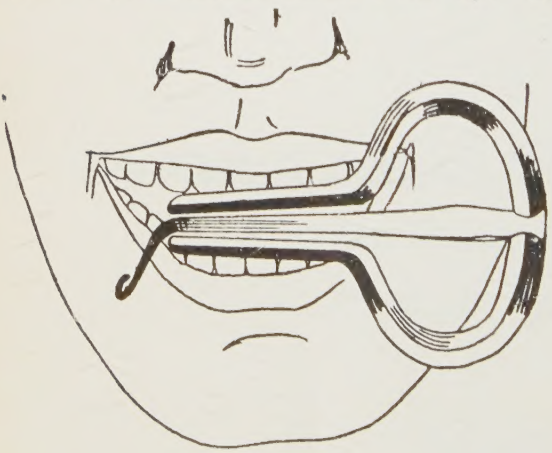
Jew's Harp—No. 1

The Jew's Harp consists of a lyre-shaped cast iron or steel frame and a tempered steel tongue. (See illustration No. 1.) The tongue of the instrument lies between the two ends of the frame and is played by vibrating the tongue, which is done by striking or plucking, with the forefinger, in time to the music.

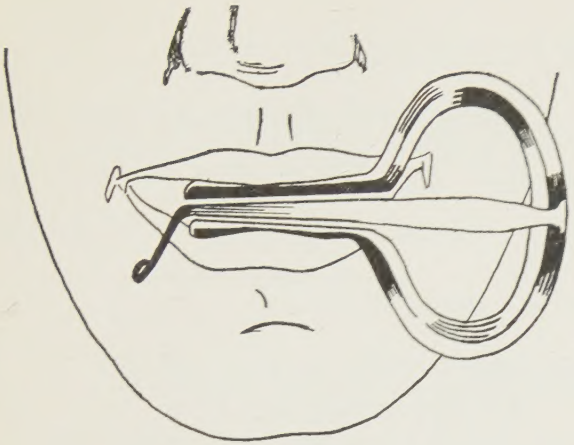


Position for holding instrument

Take the Jew's Harp in the left hand, using care that the hand touches only the frame (see illustration No. 2) and place the harp against the front teeth which must be slightly apart (see illustration No. 3). The upper and lower lips should rest on the top and bottom of the frame (see illustration No. 4) and the metal must lie away from face.



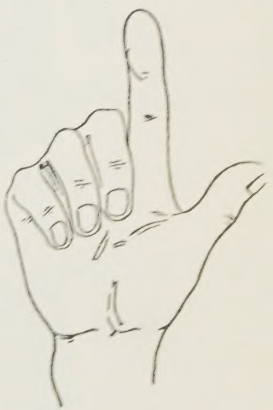
No. 3



No. 4

Do not allow the left hand, lips or teeth to come in contact with the tongue of the instrument, which must be free to vibrate.

With the right forefinger (see illustration No. 5) pluck the tongue of the Jew's Harp, making the stroke to you, and in such a manner as not to cause the tongue to vibrate against the frame. With the harp in this position, breathe strongly, as in sighing, and you will produce a tone.



No. 5

All other tones are produced by altering the size of the cavity of the mouth and a little practice will enable anyone to do this instinctively.

Illustration shows position of Jew's Harp and how to stroke.

Always stroke one way.

Always stroke toward yourself.

Use the index finger when stroking.

A little practice is all that is required.

EFFECTS EASILY OBTAINED

Another effect, easily obtainable, is to move your tongue up and down in the mouth, with a rapid movement as if saying "La, La, La, La, etc."

STROKES FOR DIFFERENT TIME

The following pages include songs with Jew's Harp accompaniment and give the tempo or rhythm with which the instrument should be plucked.

This Sign — O means to pluck with finger.

In playing other selections, the following rules will be a great help:

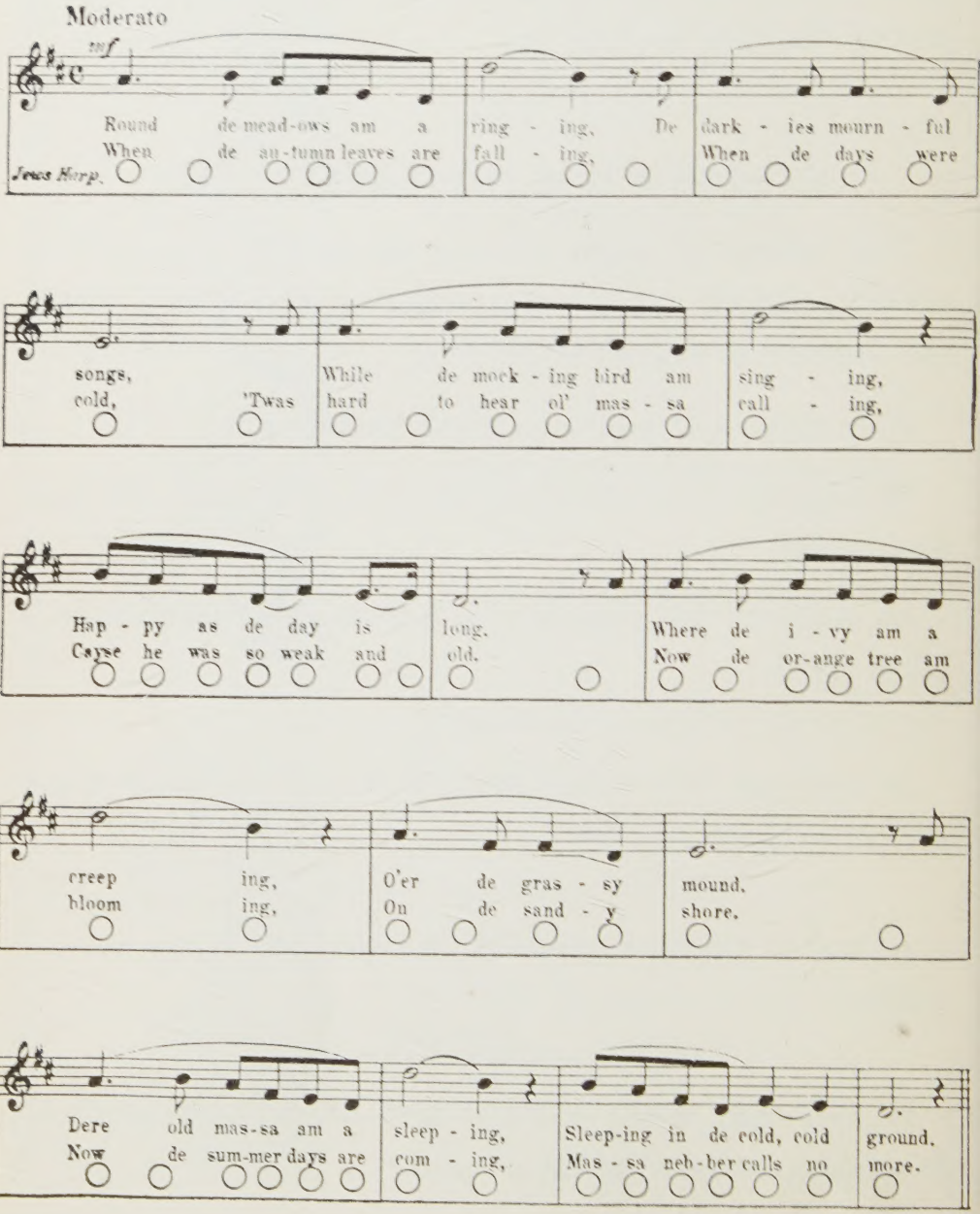
In waltz or 3/4 time, stroke 3 beats to a measure, as—1.2.3—1.2.3.

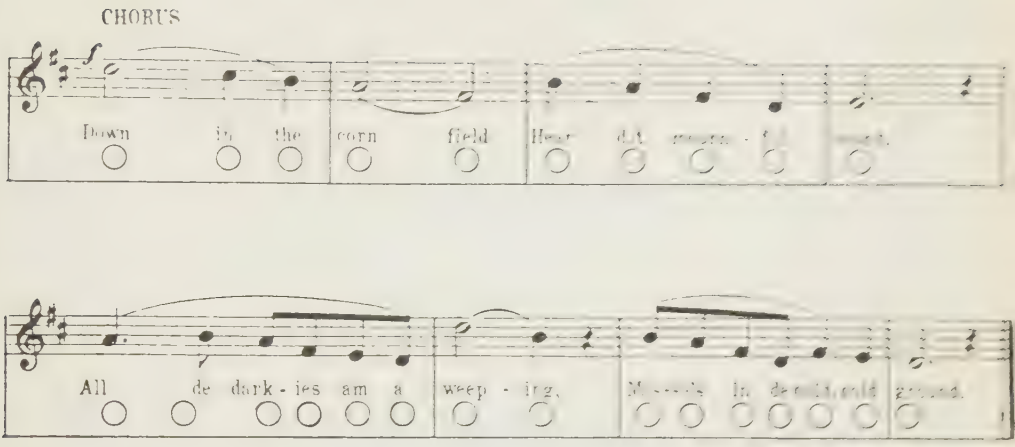
In common (C) or 4/4 time, stroke 4 beats to the measure, as—1.2.3.4—1.2.3.4.

In fast or 2/4 time, stroke 2 beats to the measure, as—1.2—1.2.

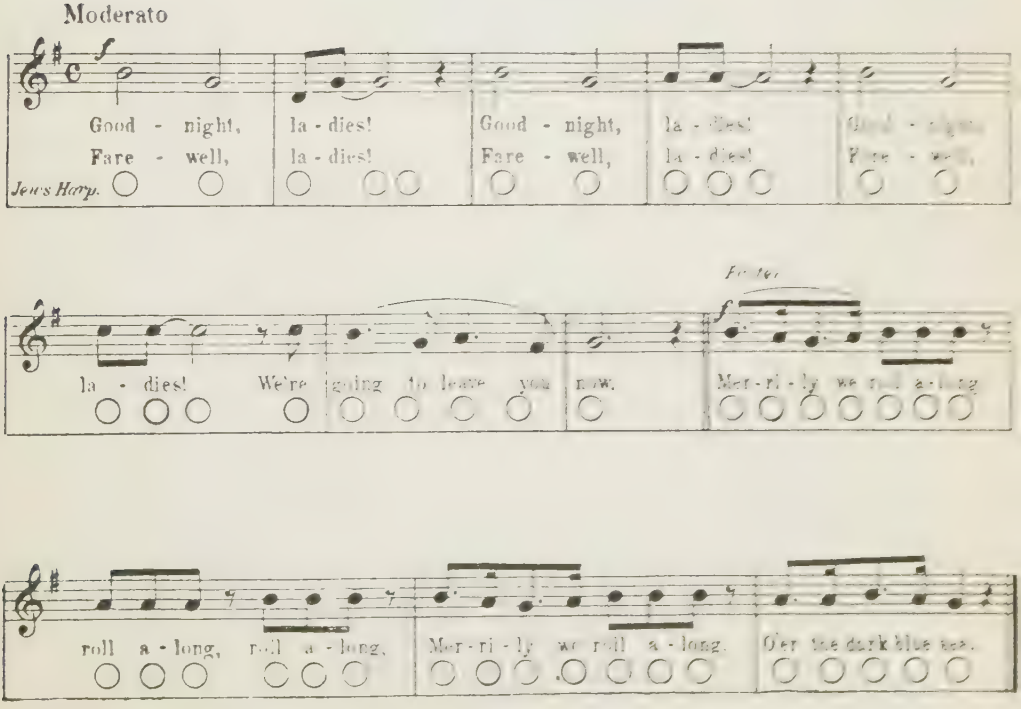
In 6/8 time, stroke either 3 or 6 beats to the measure, depending on speed of the number.

Massa's in de Cold Ground

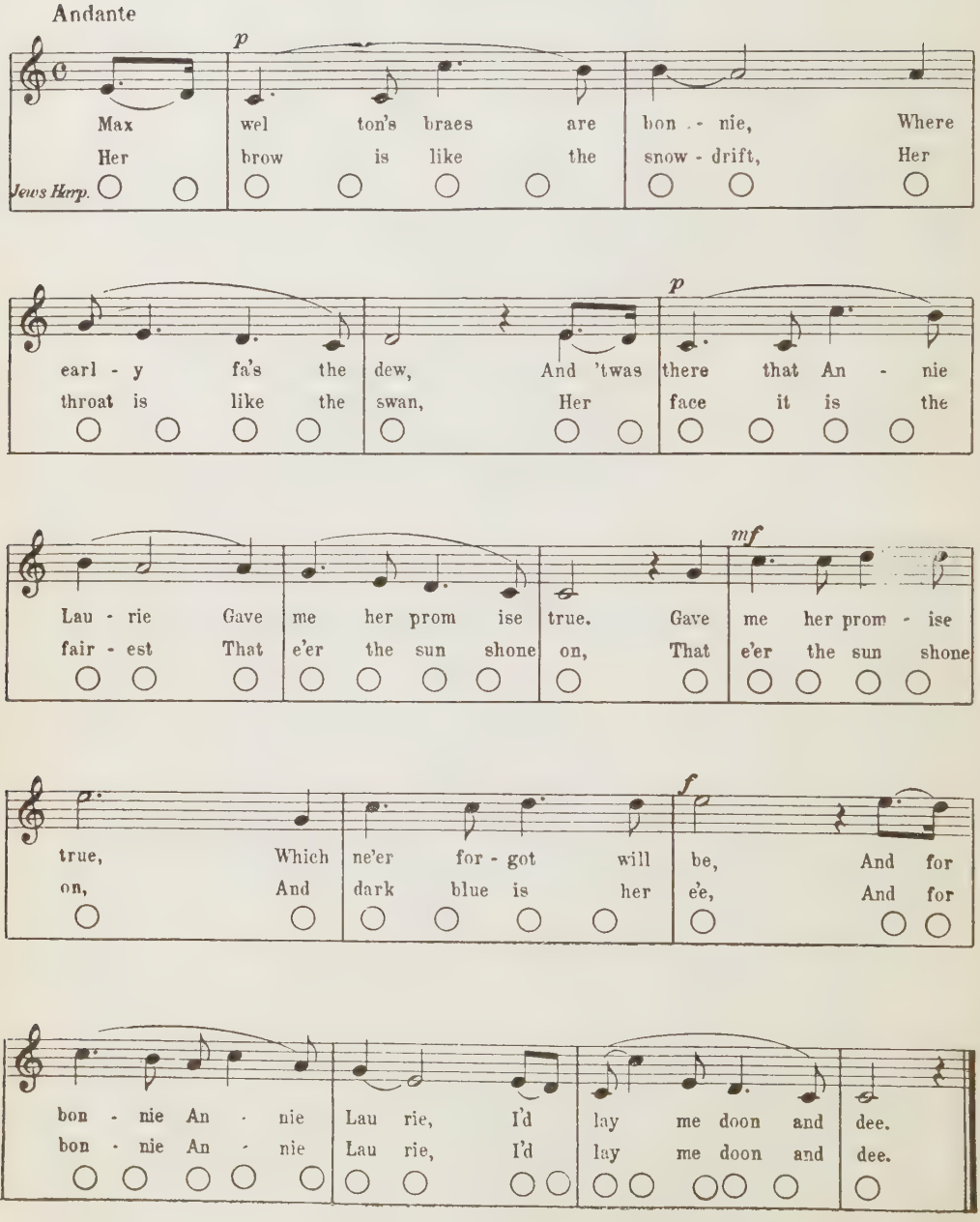

Moderato
mf
Round de mead-ows am a ring - ing, De dark - ies mourn - ful
When de au-tumn leaves are fall - ing, When de days were
Jews Harp.
songs, While de mock - ing bird am sing - ing,
cold, 'Twas hard to hear ol' mas - sa call - ing,
Hap - py as de day is long, Where de i - vy am a
Cayse he was so weak and old. Now de or-ange tree am
creep ing, O'er de gras - sy mound,
bloom ing, On de sand - y shore,
Dere old mas-sa am a sleep - ing, Sleep-ing in de cold, cold ground.
Now de sum-mer days are com - ing, Mas - sa neb-ber calls no more.

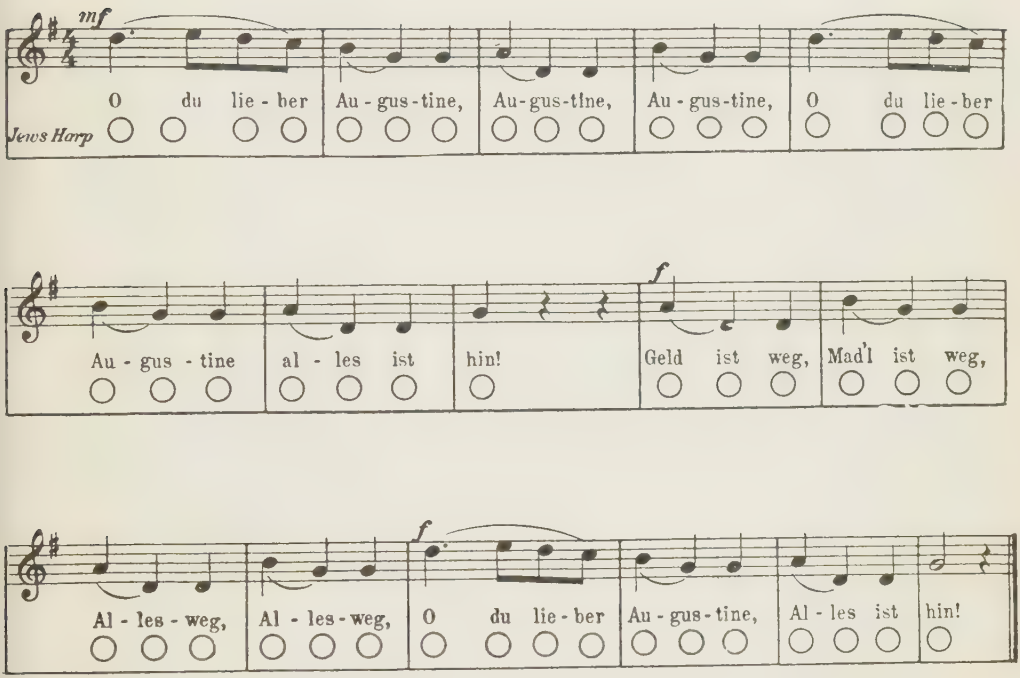


Good Night, Ladies!

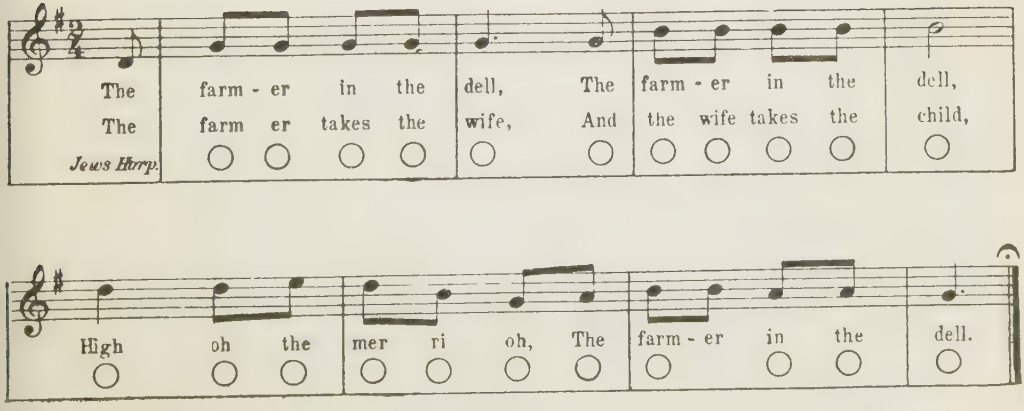

Moderato
Good - night, la - dies!
Fare - well, la - dies!
Jew's Harp.
Good - night, la - dies!
Fare - well, la - dies!
la - dies! We're going to leave you now.
Merr-i-ly we roll a-long
roll a - long, roll a - long.
Merr-i-ly we roll a-long.
O'er the dark blue sea.

Annie Laurie

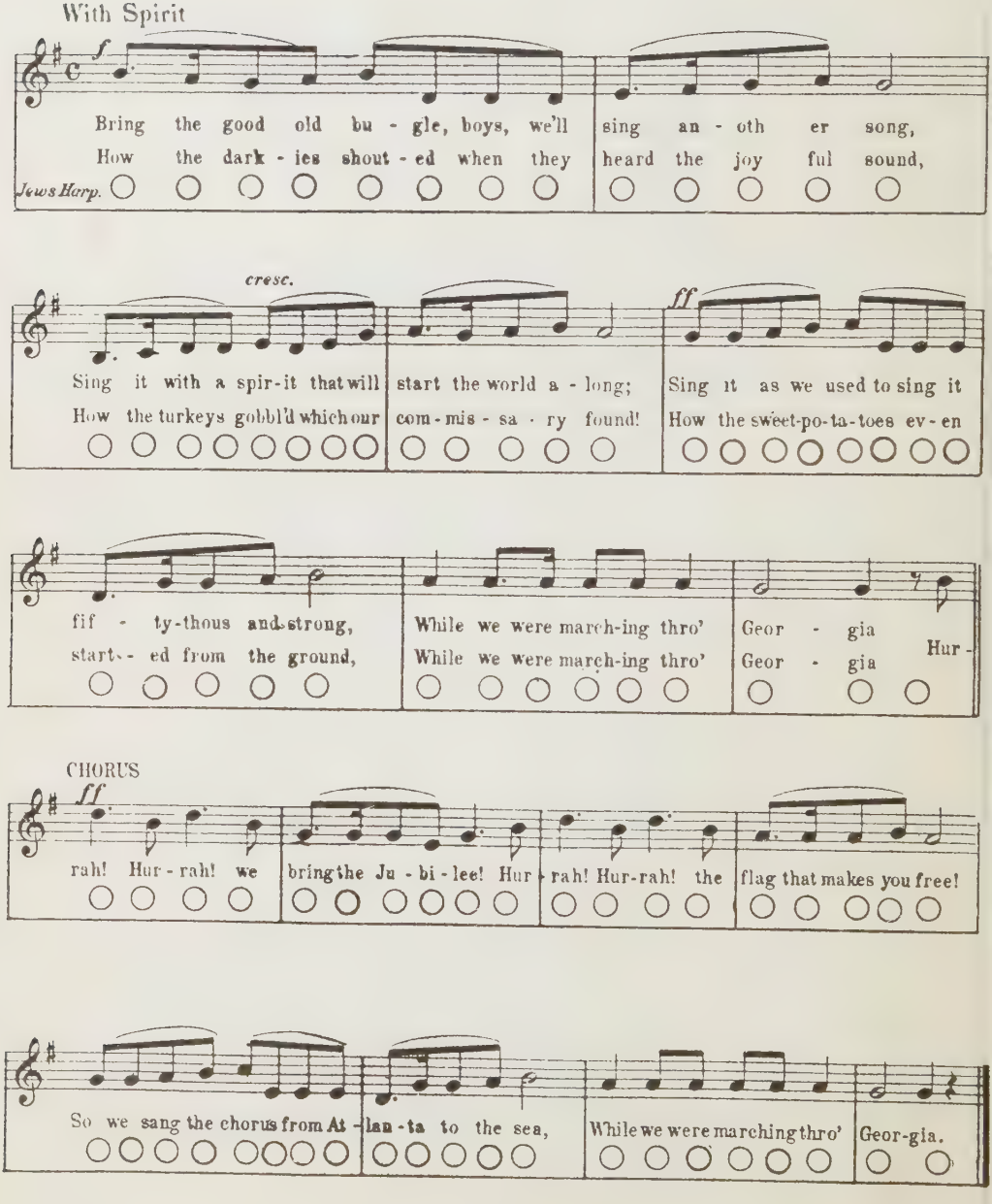

Andante
p
Max wel ton's braes are bon - nie, Where
Her brow is like the snow - drift, Her
Jews Harp.
earl - y fa's the dew, And 'twas there that An - nie
throat is like the swan, Her face it is the
p
Lau - rie Gave me her prom ise true. Gave me her prom - ise
fair - est That e'er the sun shone on, That e'er the sun shone
mf
true, Which ne'er for - got will be, And for
on, And dark blue is her e'e, And for
f
bon - nie An - nie Lau rie, I'd lay me doon and dee.
bon - nie An - nie Lau rie, I'd lay me doon and dee.

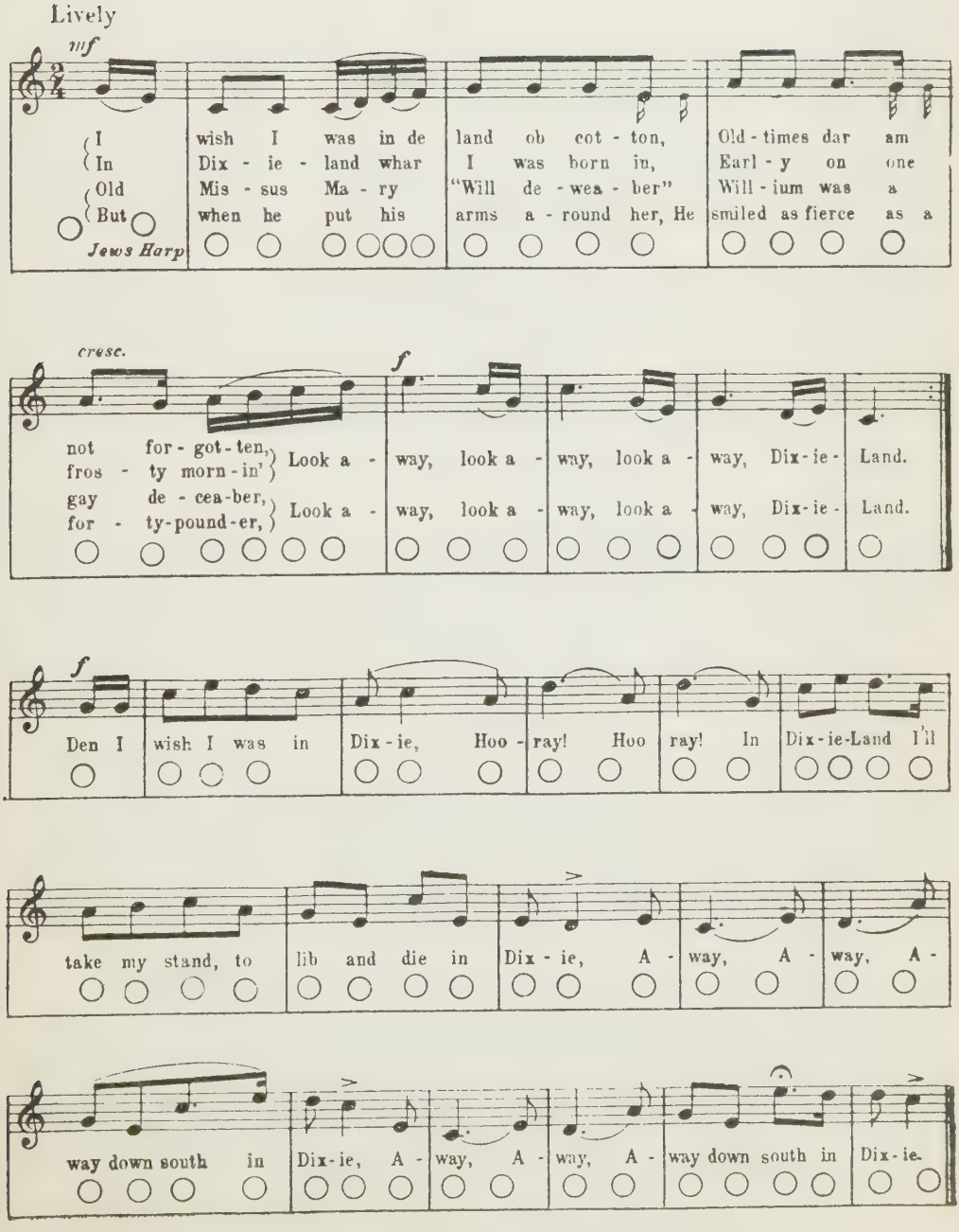
O Du Lieber Augustine

mf
O du lie - ber Au - gus - tine, Au - gus - tine, Au - gus - tine, O du lie - ber
Jews Harp
Au - gus - tine al - les ist hin!
f
Geld ist weg, Mad'l ist weg,
Al - les - weg, Al - les - weg,
f
O du lie - ber Au - gus - tine, Al - les ist hin!

The Farmer in the Dell

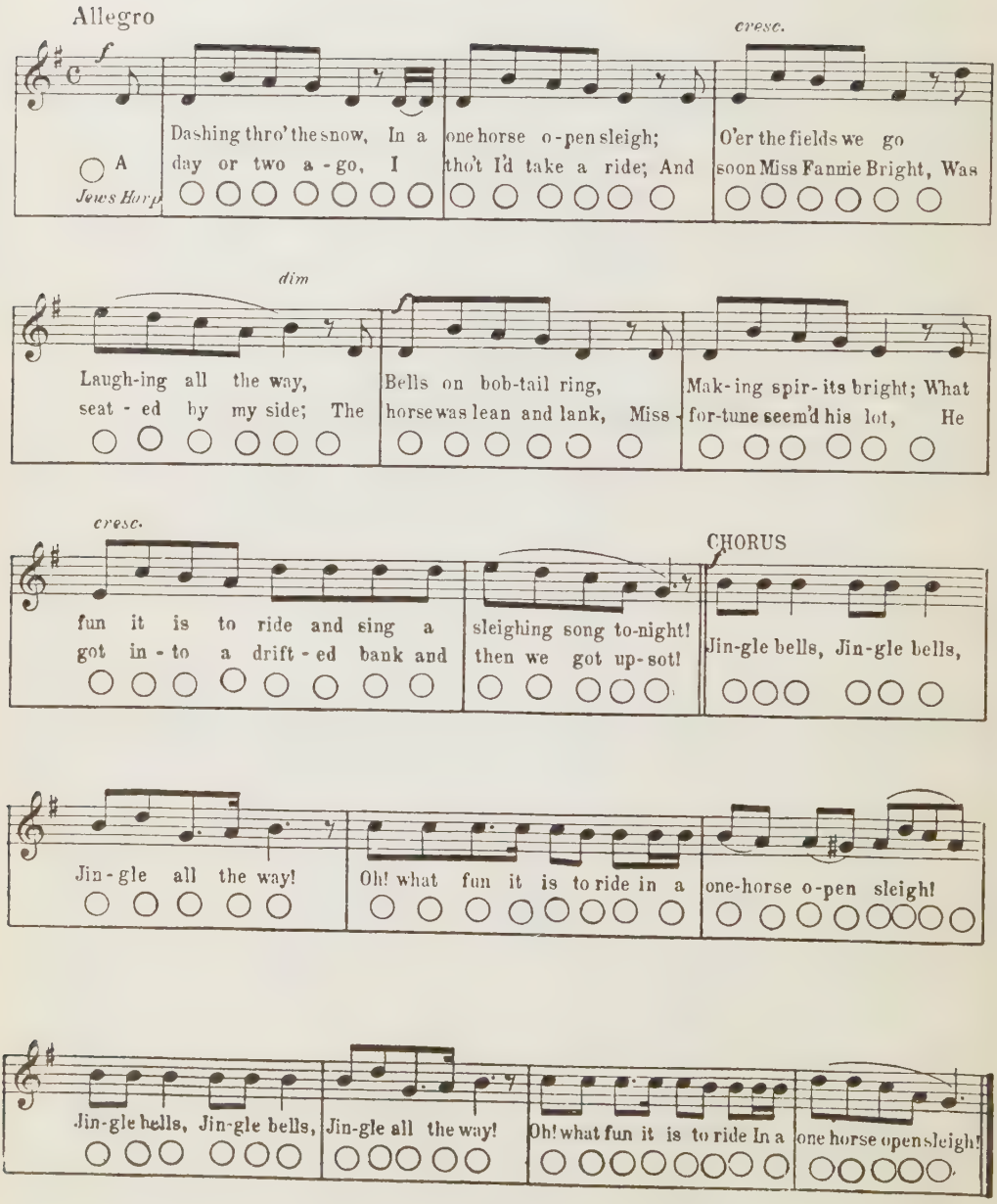

The farm - er in the dell, The farm - er in the dell,
The farm er takes the wife, And the wife takes the child,
Jews Harp.
High oh the mer ri oh, The farm - er in the dell.

Marching Through Georgia

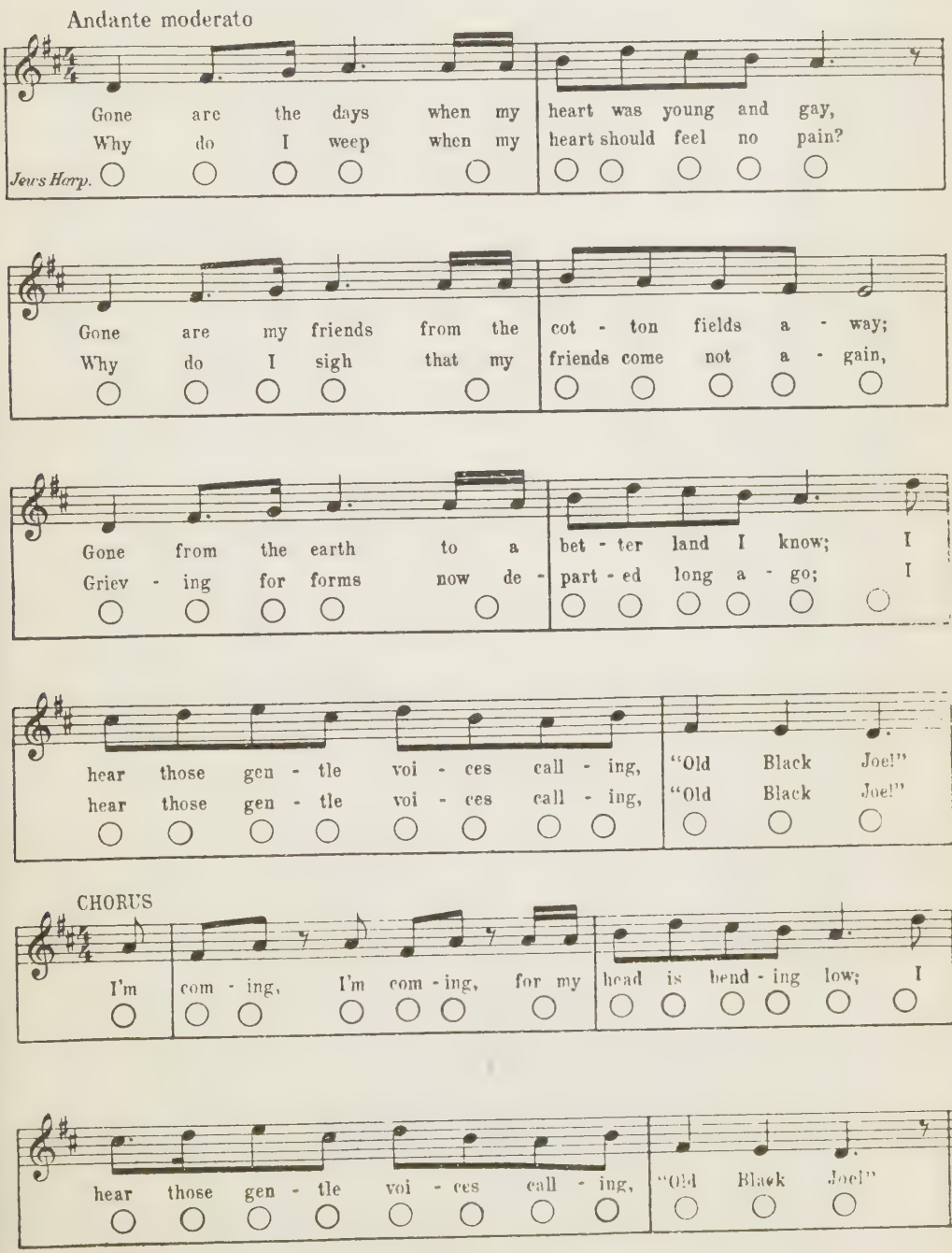

With Spirit
Bring the good old bu - gle, boys, we'll sing an - oth er song,
How the dark - ies shout - ed when they heard the joy ful sound,
Jews Harp.
cresc.
Sing it with a spir-it that will start the world a - long;
How the turkeys gobbl'd which our com - mis - sa - ry found!
ff
Sing it as we used to sing it
How the sweet-po-ta-toes ev - en
fif - ty-thous and strong,
start - ed from the ground,
While we were march-ing thro'
While we were march-ing thro'
Geor - gia
Geor - gia
Hur -
CHORUS
ff
rah! Hur - rah! we
bring the Ju - bi - lee! Hur -
rah! Hur-rah! the
flag that makes you free!
So we sang the chorus from At - lan - ta to the sea,
While we were marching thro'
Geor-gia.

Dixie Land

Lively
mf
I wish I was in de land ob cot - ton, Old - times dar am
In Dix - ie - land whar I was born in, Earl - y on one
Old Mis - sus Ma - ry "Will de - wea - ber" Will - ium was a
But when he put his arms a - round her, He smiled as fierce as a
Jews Harp
cresc.
f
not for - got - ten, fros - ty morn - in' Look a - way, look a - way, look a - way, Dix - ie - Land.
gay de - cea - ber, for - ty - pound - er, Look a - way, look a - way, look a - way, Dix - ie - Land.
f
Den I wish I was in Dix - ie, Hoo - ray! Hoo ray! In Dix - ie - Land I'll
take my stand, to lib and die in Dix - ie, A - way, A - way, A -
way down south in Dix - ie, A - way, A - way, A - way down south in Dix - ie.

Jingle Bells


Allegro
f
cresc.
A
Jews Harp
Dashing thro' the snow, In a one horse o-pen sleigh; O'er the fields we go
day or two a-go, I tho't I'd take a ride; And soon Miss Fannie Bright, Was
dim
Laugh-ing all the way, Bells on bob-tail ring, Mak-ing spir-its bright; What
seat-ed by my side; The horse was lean and lank, Miss-for-tune seem'd his lot, He
cresc.
CHORUS
fun it is to ride and sing a sleighing song to-night! Jin-gle bells, Jin-gle bells,
got in-to a drift-ed bank and then we got up-set!
Jin-gle all the way! Oh! what fun it is to ride in a one-horse o-pen sleigh!
Jin-gle bells, Jin-gle bells, Jin-gle all the way! Oh! what fun it is to ride In a one horse open sleigh!

Old Black Joe


Andante moderato
Gone are the days when my heart was young and gay,
Why do I weep when my heart should feel no pain?
Jew's Harp.
Gone are my friends from the cot - ton fields a - way;
Why do I sigh that my friends come not a - gain,
Gone from the earth to a bet - ter land I know; I
Griev - ing for forms now de - part - ed long a - go; I
hear those gen - tle voi - ces call - ing, "Old Black Joe!"
hear those gen - tle voi - ces call - ing, "Old Black Joe!"
CHORUS
I'm com - ing, I'm com - ing, for my head is bend - ing low; I
hear those gen - tle voi - ces call - ing, "Old Black Joe!"

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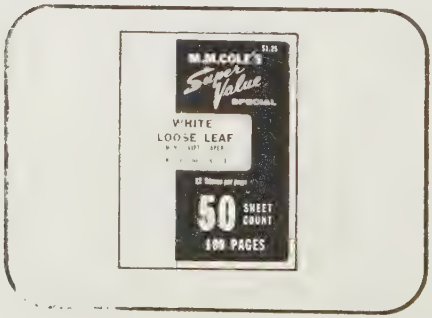

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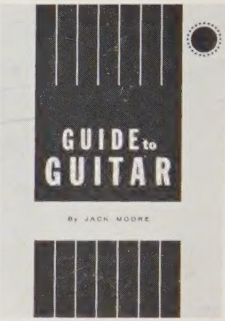

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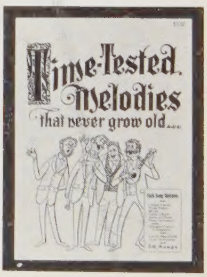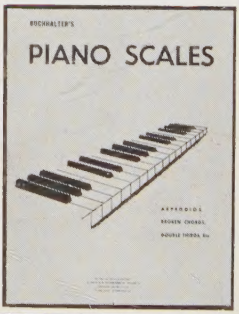

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